GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
WATER RESOURCES
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3330
ANSWERED ON:15.04.2002
WATER RECYCLING PLANTS
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Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether water recycling plants are likely to overcome the water crisis in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government in this regard ?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI ARJUN CHARAN SETHI)

(a) to (c) The net demand of raw water could be reduced by industrial processing and recycling of water. The water treated by recycling plants can be used for diverse purposes depending on the level of treatment given to the effluent. The acceptable levels and standards of the treated water is different for different purposes. Even the water discharged directly into the natural streams is also required to be treated to an acceptable level and standard so that the self cleansing property of natural streams is maintained. However, the recycled water can not be used for drinking purposes.

The National Water Policy also provides that effluents should be treated to acceptable levels and standards before discharging them into natural streams. It also emphasizes that Principle of polluter pays should be followed in management of polluted water.

Industries have been asked to reduce the consumption of water for industrial processing and use optimal quantities for processing. Under the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Cess Act, 1977, rebates are also given for usage of prescribed qualities of water.